

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 506

By Trail

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Dr. George Clifford
Gillespie, Jr., of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. George Clifford Gillespie, Jr., a highly revered professor, administrator, and Murfreesboro community member at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. "Cliff" Gillespie was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie served with acumen and alacrity as the Special Assistant to the President of Middle Tennessee State University, and he was the former Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and the former Dean of Admissions, Records, and Information Systems at MTSU. At the time of his appointment to Dean of Admissions, Records, and Informations Systems, he was the youngest person to hold such a position in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since his employment with MTSU in the early 1970s, Dr. Gillespie helped serve as a catalyst for positive change within the campus; MTSU enrollment figures have doubled and ACT scores have risen from below the state and national averages to above those

averages; he was a stalwart proponent of the educational institution and was an ambassador for the university wherever he traveled and to whomever he met; and

WHEREAS, From 1983 through 1986, Dr. Gillespie held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the Executive Committee of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers; he was also a presenter at the annual meeting of AACRAO on numerous occasions; and

WHEREAS, He astutely served as a member of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association; he earned the respect of his peers and superiors in academia alike, as well as the admiration of the students who came to know and love him, not only for the exemplary quality of his work, but also for the friendship and advice that he bestowed upon them; and

WHEREAS, A native of Nashville, Dr. Gillespie earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science Education and his Master of Education in Administration Supervision from MTSU and his Ph.D. in Higher Education from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, before returning to his Alma Mater where he was employed beginning July 1, 1970 until the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, He also served as an adjunct professor for Vanderbilt's doctoral program in higher education at Peabody College; Dr. Gillespie was often called upon by other institutions to serve as a consultant in the area of registration, records management, and enrollment management; and

WHEREAS, He was a valued member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, a member of ACT, Inc., and served on the State Policy Council for Tennessee; he was the state representative to ACTGovernance, and was a member of the ACT Board of Trustees. ACT President Richard L. Ferguson praised him for consistently giving thoughtful advice on ways ACT could enhance its educational services; Dr. Gillespie astutely served as one of the 37 state representatives of ACT Inc. for the last six years; and

WHEREAS, Involved heavily in the community where he worked and lived, Cliff Gillespie was active in Leadership Rutherford and was a former member of the Oakland Kiwanis; he was a member of the MTSU Alumni Association of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, advisor to the undergraduate chapter, and the new Kappa Sigma House which was named after him in 1999; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Interassociation Representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). For the past twenty-five years, he was the well-known, prime-time Walking Horse show ring announcer for many premier horse shows across the United States, including the International Grand Championship Show and the Walking Horse Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie was an active and devout member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, He was the son of Mrs. Connie Gillespie and the late George Clifford Gillespie, Sr., and the brother of Gerry Gillespie of Unionville, and Rita Raymer of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie enjoyed the loving companionship of Gayle Lyons Gillespie and was the proud parent of Matthew, Michael, and Lauren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cliff Gillespie leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. Cliff Gillespie, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Gillespie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.